



United States Department  
of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

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# Washington Crop Weather

Released: August 29, 2011  
Week Ending: August 28, 2011  
CWP WA-CW2611

## Winter Wheat Harvest Continues in Eastern Washington Spring Crop Growers Concerned as Many Fields Immature Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.9. An overall exceptional winter wheat harvest continued in eastern Washington. Many areas reported above average yields and test weights. Elevators were full throughout the area with large piles of wheat on the ground. Combines were reported to be short supply in Franklin County. Fall seeding had just begun in several areas. Field corn was tassling quickly but maturity remained well behind previous years. The second cutting of alfalfa was nearly complete and third was moving along quickly with a week of hot, dry weather to push it along.

### Fruits and Vegetables

In the Yakima Valley, fruit growers were bringing in plums and harvest of peaches and nectarines continued. Pear and early apple varieties, such as Gala, and hop harvest have all begun. The vegetable harvest hit its peak with sweet corn, melon, pepper, tomato, cucumber and squashes all coming in quickly.

### Livestock and Shellfish

Range and pasture conditions were 2 percent very poor, 10 percent poor, 26 percent fair, 46 percent good and 16 percent excellent. Shellfish growers were busy setting oyster seed from the first natural set in Willapa Bay in over five years. On the east side, livestock on range continued to look good.

#### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.9
Last Week	7.0

#### Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	11	40	44	5
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	21	42	35	2
Subsoil	2	41	56	1
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	18	43	39	0
Irrigation Water	0	1	97	2
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	1	6	93	0
Hay & Roughage	0	5	90	5
Hay & Roughage 5 Yr Avg	4	16	71	9

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

#### Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2010	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Harvested	35	12	65	76
Winter Wheat Harvested	77	53	86	92
Winter Wheat Planted	5	0	9	4
Barley Harvested	36	8	64	74
Potatoes Harvested	30	22	27	43
Field Corn Silked	80	59	92	96
Field Corn Doughed	13	2	15	43
Dry Peas Harvested	26	20	89	93
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	15	12	23	23
Alfalfa Hay 2nd Cutting	96	90	96	98
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	36	12	65	67

#### Crop Condition\*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	1	3	15	46	35
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	1	58	41
Spring Wheat Dryland	1	14	35	46	4
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	22	38	40
Barley Dryland	1	3	27	62	7
Barley Irrigated	0	0	9	88	3
Potatoes	0	0	50	48	2
Corn	0	4	55	35	6
Dry Edible Beans	0	10	34	55	1

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good

EX=Excellent

\*Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

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# COUNTY COMMENTS

## Western

**Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific:** The area has experienced typical summer weather with temperatures in the mid 80s.

**Mason:** The corn crop does have rows developing on it, but it will be late. There is concern about the tomatoes ripening.

**Pacific:** Warm and dry summer weather provided producers with good opportunities to complete late season field activities. Shellfish growers were busy setting oyster seed from the first natural set in Willapa Bay in over five years. This involved placing shell bags in areas with oyster larvae. Raspberry growers continued post-harvest pruning operations, and cranberry growers were busy with bog irrigation and late season weed control. With drier soil conditions, pasture quality declined.

**Pierce/South King:** Crop conditions remained good for the South Puget Sound area. No unusual situations to report. No report of any crop damage

due to an adverse weather event.

**San Juan:** Warm and dry weather continued. Pasture regrowth was slow due to lack of rain. Haying is completed for the season.

**Snohomish/North King:** A good week for crops and everything was putting on a lot of growth, though all crops were still running several weeks behind normal. Irrigation continued in organic beans. Blueberry harvest continued. Apples were putting on some color. Nonirrigated pasture growth was unusually good for this time of year due to our long, wet spring.

**Whatcom (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** A timely rain was received on Monday and heavy dew in the mornings helped to add much needed moisture to the dry conditions. Seed potato growers were starting the devining process. Blueberry harvest continued.

# Central

**Chelan:** Cherry harvest was still under way, but slowing. All crop harvests were about 10 to 14 days behind normal. Bartlett pears and Gala apple harvest will start in about a week, and there will be continuous apple and pear harvest until the first week of November.

**Chelan/Douglas:** Warm weather conditions continued. Winter wheat harvest was about 50 percent complete. Most producers were reporting higher than average yields, with some areas hitting historical record highs. Many producers have stopped harvest in order to plant the 2012 winter wheat crop. Some of the winter wheat was still not fully mature due to the cold-wet spring weather.

**Franklin:** High temperatures averaged in the low to mid 90s during the week with cooler than normal mornings. We've still not reached the century mark and last week marked the last week we would typically see 100 degrees or more. No measurable precipitation until Sunday night when a very gusty thunderstorm blew through the county at an amazing pace. The storm brought short lived but heavy rain in parts of the county and took out power in some parts as well. Lightning was prevalent with some reported small wild land fires. Sweet corn was progressing. Fresh potatoes continued to be harvested all week. Storage onions were also being harvested throughout the week. Reports of higher than normal dry land wheat yields, though also reports of a lack of combines for the crop as well as storage capacity in the warehouse system. Combines were coming in from out of state to help handle the heavy crop that seemed to have matured all at once in the lower tri-county area. Beans were still a week or so out from harvest and third cutting hay was still being cut in northern parts of the county while being put up in the mid to southern parts, with the southern part close to town completed.

**Kittitas:** Fifty percent of the wheat has been harvested, and many acres of timothy were currently down. Fall fieldwork has begun and folks were gearing up for the final push.

**Klickitat:** County fair week saw highs of 80s to 90s and lows of 50s to 60s with a daily average temperature of 72 degrees in the Goldendale Valley area. Dry and warm for continued harvest activities but for Friday when a sudden thunder storm in the morning brought winds up to 30 mph and variable amounts of rain depending on location. Some places saw raindrop prints in dust other areas got soaked. More dry land fields readied for fall planting but await fall rains before seeding. Livestock continued to look good. Normal activities in orchards and vineyards. In home gardens, summer apples were ripening, cabbage heads were beginning to form and corn ears were filling out finally.

**Klickitat (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Weather has been very hot and dry with lightening storms around the county. Producers were harvesting with reports all over the board. Many fields were having record highs and lows which was making the yields average as a whole. Third cutting was in full swing and if producers had extra time, they were working summer fallow in preparation for fall planting.

**Yakima:** Vegetable harvest hit its peak, with sweet corn, melon, pepper (sweet and chili), tomato, cucumber, and squash (summer and winter) all coming in and on display in the farmers markets and vegetable stands. Fruit growers were bringing in plum crop and harvest of peach and nectarine continued. Pear harvest started as well as the harvest of early apple varieties including Gala. Meanwhile, growers were doing what they can (ground cloth, bioregulator sprays) to enhance the maturity of a late crop of Red Delicious apples. Hop harvest also started. Daytime high temperatures remained in the upper 80s to mid 90s all week long with no precipitation reported in the crop-producing areas of the county.

**Yakima (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Average temperatures were warmer than average, being five to thirteen degrees above normal. Highs were in the upper 90s while lows for the week were in the mid 50s. No measureable precipitation was received.

## Eastern

**Adams:** Harvest was complete and winter wheat seeding was progressing across the county.

**Adams (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Hot and dry the last three weeks, with precipitation needed badly. The wheat harvest was strong, yields were above average, and test weights were above average. Elevators were full throughout the countryside.

**Asotin:** Winter wheat was about all harvested. Spring wheat was still a ways off in parts of the county. Pastures were dry and second crop of hay was short due to lack of moisture and heat. A lightning storm came through last night and started a few small fires and one large one that has burned over 5,000 acres according to some reports. No reports have come in as to whether or not crops have been lost yet. Grass seed was all harvested.

**Lincoln:** Harvest was progressing across the county as crops were ripening. Hot dry conditions have been very favorable. Winter wheat seeding has started in the southwest corner and will progress across the county in the following weeks.

**Lincoln (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Harvest was winding down, now to seeding.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** A week of warm weather with high temperatures in the upper 80s and lower 90s ripened grain and allowed combines to harvest the

majority of the winter wheat fields. Some still had to leave draws that were too green but most of the winter wheat's been cut. Some dry peas and lentils were being harvested. Last night's winds may have shattered some of the lentils that will be cut direct and blew around windrows of lentils that were swathed in windrows. Yield reports for winter wheat were mixed with reports of average to a little above average to some very good. A few growers have cut some spring wheat but were having to leave large portions of the fields because there still was a lot of green heads. A small amount of barley has been harvested and some of the spring canola was cut.

**Stevens:** Most of the areas second cutting hay was completed by late last week. Yields were above average and quality was good due to excellent drying conditions. Grain producers continued with harvest, finding good yields in all areas except those impacted by excess spring moisture. High temperatures for the week were in the upper 90s.

**Whitman:** About 50 percent of winter wheat has been harvested and the overall quality was exceptional. Probably 20 percent of the spring wheat and barley has been cut and quality was just average. Peas, lentil and garbanzo harvest was really just getting started and the quality was generally not known yet.

# Weekly Weather Statistics

August 22 - August 28, 2011

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS				LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIP			
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	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	PCT NORMAL	DAYS
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WEST															
Bellingham Intl	52	79	66	+4	113	+27	43	+21	0.39	+0.11	2	40.03	+3.91	111	188
Everett AP	54	80	67	+4	119	+27	49	+22	0.00	-0.35	0	38.52	+1.13	103	218
Hoquiam	50	77	63	+3	90	+13	20	+6	0.32	-0.08	3	80.54	+12.04	118	223
Kelso	55	90	71	+7	147	+45	77	+42	0.00	-0.35	0	46.94	-0.90	98	190
Olympia	50	85	68	+6	127	+39	57	+32	0.25	-0.05	2	59.18	+8.54	117	200
Seattle Tacoma	54	84	69	+5	135	+30	65	+28	0.12	-0.16	2	47.80	+10.85	129	201
Shelton	50	86	68	+4	123	+25	53	+20	0.65	+0.30	2	80.01	+14.49	122	208
Tacoma WA AP	48	84	68	+4	126	+26	56	+23	0.31	+0.03	2	42.64	+2.27	106	194
Vancouver WA	60	90	74	+7	171	+45	101	+45	0.03	-0.24	1	47.06	+10.11	127	188
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg AP	55	97	76	+10	181	+68	111	+64	0.00	-0.09	0	13.80	+4.76	153	114
Omak AP	51	96	75	+7	177	+45	107	+41	0.00	-0.14	0	13.55	+0.78	106	107
Stampede Pass	50	77	63	+7	89	+40	23	+22	0.22	-0.40	1	82.45	-1.39	98	229
Wenatchee AP	61	95	78	+8	199	+49	129	+50	0.00	-0.08	0	9.07	+0.62	107	82
Yakima AP	54	98	76	+10	184	+67	114	+62	0.00	-0.10	0	10.70	+2.49	130	82
NORTHEAST															
Colville	49	99	74	+10	173	+64	103	+58	0.00	-0.25	0	23.08	+1.30	106	143
Deer Park AP	43	95	70	+7	137	+40	67	+33	0.00	-0.28	0	26.17	-0.12	100	153
Kettle Falls Me	50	95	73	+6	164	+42	94	+40	0.00	-0.28	0	17.81	-2.96	86	134
Spokane AP	60	94	76	+10	183	+64	113	+60	0.00	-0.17	0	20.22	+3.64	122	145
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	57	98	78	+7	197	+41	127	+41	0.00	-0.07	0	8.25	+0.59	108	83
Moses Lake	54	99	76	+4	181	+25	111	+25	0.00	-0.07	0	8.61	+0.95	112	90
Quincy	55	94	76	+7	180	+42	110	+42	0.00	-0.07	0	8.36	+0.45	106	81
Ritzville	53	95	74	+7	173	+50	103	+46	0.00	-0.14	0	13.01	+0.76	106	109
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	61	99	81	+6	218	+41	148	+42	0.00	-0.07	0	5.38	-1.43	79	69
Lake Bryan Rice	58	106	80	+13	209	+84	139	+80	0.00	-0.14	0	18.90	+4.14	128	133
Pasco	58	99	79	+6	201	+38	131	+39	0.00	-0.12	0	10.29	+2.31	129	98
Pullman AP	50	98	72	+7	154	+45	84	+39	0.00	-0.21	0	21.39	+0.47	102	151
Silcott Island	62	103	82	+11	229	+76	159	+76	0.00	-0.21	0	12.81	+0.16	101	130
Walla Walla Rgn	65	99	81	+8	218	+53	148	+53	0.00	-0.21	0	21.99	+1.17	106	137
Whitman Mission	47	99	75	+8	178	+51	108	+49	0.00	-0.18	0	19.36	+4.97	135	133
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'Alene AP	52	93	73	+5	159	+35	89	+32	0.00	-0.28	0	26.52	+0.73	103	130
Lewiston ID	62	100	81	+10	221	+68	151	+68	0.00	-0.21	0	15.46	+2.81	122	135

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Friday September 1, 2010

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1971-2000 Normal Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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National weather summary: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1393> Washington

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